

small, but to me they were the perfect example of the art of being good neighbours.—"Sara E.," Otago.

I CALL to mind the "Good Neighbour" who planted my boy's favourite flowers, primroses, mignonette, and stocks all round the base of his grave. She had known him for the 21 years of his short life, and thought this small act would please me, which it certainly did. We know our good neighbours by their deeds, which speak far louder than words.

—"Nanna," Nelson.

MY neighbour has all the attributes: loving kindness, sane wisdom in giving advice, a truly heartfelt desire to be of use to her neighbours, and the gay spirit that brings brightness to her fellows, happiness to the children, and gallantly never acknowledges defeat. God bless my neighbour!—"Marianne," North Auckland.

NEIGHBOURS

*She had charm and personality,
Looks and versatility,
But her children while she gaddied,
To the next-door brood were added—
She was NOT*

A good neighbour!

*She was kind and she was generous,
Her social work was vigorous,
She blessed the whole community
At every opportunity—
She was NOT*

A good neighbour!

*She was ladylike and reticent,
Her whole conduct was excellent,
But she wouldn't risk the dangers
Of making friends with strangers—
She was NOT*

A good neighbour!

*She was small and insignificant,
Her home was not magnificent,
But it was her delight to try
To do as she would be done by—
And she WAS*

A good neighbour!

I THINK that the art of being a good neighbour can be summed up in three ways: first, a cheerful, friendly approach which offers friendship, but shuns familiarity; second, a deep

understanding that responds quickly to another's needs; third, reserve and tact which prevent idle discussions about other people's affairs, and invite confidence without fear of betrayal.—"Alison Grey," Tauranga.

IT'S keeping warm human interest in those living about us that matters. That word of encouragement, that comfort you know a troubled soul

Competitions

NOVEMBER

What have you chosen as the four most exciting Christmas gifts you have ever received? Head your entries "Christmas Presents," and send them in by November 15.

DECEMBER

It would be interesting to hear how important a part coincidences play in people's lives. One of the commonest forms of coincidence is to receive an unexpected message or a visit from a person of whom you have been thinking. Another quite frequent occurrence is when mention has been made of some particular subject in the course of conversation, and the first book or newspaper you happen to pick up afterwards contains a reference to that very topic. But it is of the more unusual experiences I want you to write—instances that indeed prove the truth of the old saying, "Truth is stranger than fiction."

"STRANGE COINCIDENCES."

Entries close on December 15. First prize 10/-, second prize 5/-.

"MARY,"

"Journal of Agriculture,"
Box 3004, Wellington.

sores needs, that helping hand—give it now when it will be most appreciated. Share in the interests of others. Be happy over their joy. Be warm and generous with praise—in fact, let your neighbour know and feel that she matters to you, and the sun will shine twice as brightly for you both. We who have lived in remote country places have often experienced such neighbourliness, the loving, kindly friendships that make life so good. It takes so little effort to be kind and thoughtful, to be interested in one another. Yes, loving thy neighbour is being concerned about her welfare.—"Tiggety Boo," Katikati.

WE are told to "Love thy neighbour as thyself." I think this the keynote of being a good neighbour—to be friendly, interested and understanding in joy or trouble, to be ready with a helping hand, a cheery smile, to be able to give and take. It is easy

to be a graceful giver, but not so easy for some of us to receive gracefully, so do not be too independent, for although independence is a good quality, it may be overdone. I think these lines sum up the subject very neatly:

*Life is a one-way street,
And while you are passing through
Do unto others whom you meet
As you would they should do unto
you.*

*There is no going back,
All wishes are in vain,
So, do that kindness—do it now.
The chance ne'er comes again.*

—"Ira," Cromwell.

MY neighbour is a kindly, cheerful soul, with a friendly interest in her neighbours and their doings, but having an abhorrence of malicious gossip. She has great generosity of mind and delights in helping "lame dogs," though she has a sturdy independence of spirit herself. In her own troubles she has courage and reticence, while she has infinite pity for those whom sorrow or sickness has touched. Hers is a sociable nature and she loves young folk around her. In religious matters she is tolerant and is willing to help with all good causes that make for a better and happier community life. In the country such a good neighbour is by no means a rarity.—"Francisca," West Coast.

*Let me be a little kinder; let me
be a little blinder
To the faults of those about me; let
me praise a little more;
Let me be a little meeker with a
brother who is weaker;
Let me think more of my neighbour
and a little less of me.*

"Vista," Waikato.



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